

## ARRIVALS.

July 3, VORTIGER, British steamer, 876, J. Brown, Saigon 29th June, General—ARNOLD, KARBERG & Co.

July 4, FORMOSA, British str., 674, H. Harris, Tamsui 26th June, and Amoy 2nd July, General—DOUGLAS LA PRAIK & Co.

July 4, VELVA, French steamer, 1,093, B. Riviere, Yokohama 26th June, Mails and General—MESSAGERIES MARITIMES.

July 4, VELVA, German steamer, 636, M. Kallison, Nanchang 25th June, and Chefoo 27th, General—ED. SCHELLHORN & Co.

July 4, ENSEADA, British steamer, 355, G. A. Taylor, Manila 1st July, General—RUSSELL & Co.

July 4, ASHINGTON, British steamer, 806, W. Reynell, Nagasaki 28th June, Cons.—SIEMSEN & Co.

June 4, RAYON DIXON, Norwegian str., 1,168, J. Johnson, Kuching 29th June, Coals—ODER.

July 4, GENERAL WERDER, German str., 1,819, W. V. Schubmann, Nagasaki 1st July, Mails and General—MELCHERS & Co.

July 4, YANGTSE, British steamer, 814, T. W. Starling, Shanghai 29th June, and Amoy 3rd July, General—STENSEN & Co.

July 4, ZAMBESI, British steamer, 1,664, C. F. Preston, Bombay via Singapor 16th June, General—P. & O. S. N. Co.

July 4, LIAOPADY, French steamer, 3,513, Lantzig, Shanghai 2nd July, Mails and General—MESSAGERIES MARITIMES.

CLEARANCES.

AT THE HARBOR MASTER'S OFFICE,  
4TH JULY.

Ningpo, British str., for Shanghai

DEPARTURES.

July 4, CANTON, British str., for Whampoa.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

For VELVA, str., from Yokohama, 82.—For Hongkong.—Mr. and Mrs. Rose, Rev. J. A. P. Ray and Mr. Lormier from Yokohama. From Kobe—Messrs. Crawford and Kniffel, and 1 Japanese. For Saigon.—Mr. de Baily, and 79 French marines, from Yokohama. For Manila—Colin de Flancy (French Consul), Messrs. Taniguchi, Y. Hiroya, F. Nata, K. Okuda, and S. Oh, from Yokohama. From Kobe—3 Japanese.

For VORTIGER, str., from Saigon—14 Chinese.

For VELVA, str., from Nanchang and Chefoo.

Mr. Jensen, and 3 Chinese.

For ENSEADA, str., from Manila—Messrs. T. Shand, R. W. Bacon, and Dr. M. D. Hogg, and 1 Chinese.

For General WERDER, str., from Nagasaki—Mr. G. S. Storck, and 22 Chinese.

For YANGTSE, str., from Shanghai—For Hongkong.—Mr. and Mrs. Forbes, Messrs. Greville, Reiss, W. J. Swaine, E. G. Tokat, and J. Mitchell, and 10 Chinese.

REPORTS.

The French steamer VELVA, from Yokohama 26th June, reports had good weather.

The British steamer ENSEADA, from Manila 1st July, reports had light variable breeze and fine weather throughout.

The British steamer VORTIGER, from Saigon 29th June, reports had light S.E. and S.W. winds and fine weather; squalls and rain nearing port.

The British steamer ASHINGTON, from Nagasaki 28th June, reports had moderate variable winds and showery weather to Lantzig; thence to port light easterly winds and rainy weather.

The British steamer YANGTSE, from Shanghai 29th June, and Amoy 3rd July, reports had light S.W. monsoon to Amoy with fine, clear weather. From Amoy to Hongkong moderate N.E. winds and fair weather.

The British steamer FORMOSA, from Tamsui 30th June, and Amoy 2nd July, reports from Tamsui to Amoy experienced moderate S.E.W. winds and fine weather. From Amoy to port light northerly winds and cloudy weather. In Amoy steamer at time of leaving, YANGTSE and AMY.

AMOY SHIPPING.

June 24, Pekin, British str., from Hongkong.

25, Piccola, German str., from Swatow.

27, Haiphong, British str., from Foochow.

28, Mefoo, Chinese str., from Swatow.

29, Canicot, British str., from Hongkong.

28, Visaya, Spanish str., from Hongkong.

30, Hoitow, British str., from Shanghai.

31, Nama, British str., from Hongkong.

32, Diamante, British str., from Hongkong.

33, Sin Pan, Chinese str., from Hongkong.

29, Port Augusta, British str., from Amoy.

29, Fokien, British str., from Tamsui.

30, Thale, British str., from Hongkong.

July 1, Amigo, German str., from Hongkong.

22, DEPARTURES.

23, Den Juan, Spanish str., for Swatow.

24, Macao, Chinese str., for Swatow.

24, Fokien, British str., for Tamsui.

25, Formosa, British str., for Tamsui.

26, Taitan, British bark for Newchow.

27, Carl Bohn, German str., for Manila.

28, Cyclops, British str., for Shanghai.

29, M. L. S. 10, British str., for Shanghai.

29, Visaya, Spanish str., for Manila.

29, Bonfam, British str., for Swatow.

29, Hoitow, British str., for Swatow.

29, Diamante, British str., for Manila.

29, Piccola, German str., for Swatow.

30, Port Augusta, British str., for Vancouver.

July 1, Thales, British str., for Taiwanfu.

U T T L E R, P A L M E R & C O.

On LONDON, MELBOURNE, CALIFORNIA, BOMBAY, MADRAS, LAGHORE, KURNAKUR, BOMBAY, & CO.

Are represented in China by

MESSRS. JARDINE, MATHER & CO.

SIEMSEN & CO.

LANE, CRAWFORD & CO. & BY

H. B. RENNELL & CO. IN JAPAN.

Subjoined is a list of the items consigned by these well-known Shippers—

SPIRITS.

COGNAC—The popular 4-star, quality and best.

COGNAC—The well-known "2 Star" quality, WHISKY SCOTCH, in Heart Shaped bottles, a specialty.

WHISKY SCOTCH, in Ordinary bottles, The "Glenlivet" Whisky in round bottles. The bottle of "CARLTON" 11 years old.

WHISKY IRISH, the best selected, very fine.

N.E.—All the above Spirits are of excellent quality, and are recommended.

WINES.

For Invalids' use—PORT & SHERRY—Very Superior and reliable. AMOROSO, MANZANILLA, MUSCAT, BALEARES, DRY SHERRY, distilled by B. L. D. & CO. and White Seals, Charming Wines. Sauternes, Sauternes, CLARET, viz. Mouton, Latour, St. Estephe, Medoc in Quarts & Pintos. Need no room-mandate.

For Prices apply to either of the above Firms marked \*

[935]

## LIFE ASSURANCE.

## NOTICE.

## BANKS.

## NOTICE.

## NOTICES OF FIRMS.

## NOTICE.

## INSURANCES.

## NOTICE.

## AUCTION.

## NOTICE.

## NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

## NOTICE.

## NOTICE.&lt;/div



King Humbert is probably the hardest-worked monarch in Europe. To judge by the account of his daily duties given to-day, he has hardly a minute's rest throughout the day, and as he does not go to bed till one a.m., and is always up and working at six, it will be seen that he does not allow much time for sleep.

Although the Jubilee is not to be celebrated in England—in the grand old-fashioned way by a general release of prisoners for debt, nevertheless there is good news for the hard up. The Lord Chancellor has issued an order for the closing of the County Courts on the 21st of June. This will indeed come as a boon and a blessing to men in general.

The Maharajah of Vizianagram is an accomplished horseman. Mounting a Burmese pony in the compound of his Ningambukham residence, he rode it through the house, up a zigzag staircase, out to the roof of the bungalow. Then came a drop of a couple of feet on to the roof of the porch over the entrance to the bungalow. In that position the Highness stood and was photographed from the compound.

"What does 'transparent moon'?" asked a Scotch Board-school teacher lately of his class in the third standard. After a long pause he almost despaired of getting an answer, when suddenly an urchin with a rough head and dirty face cracked his fingers excitedly. "Wall!" said the teacher. "Your mother! Does me, how?" "Because," explained the neglected boy, "when my father came home the other night, he said to my mother, 'My lady, I see through you'."

At one of Robinson's recitals at St. James's Hall he was accosted by an old lady in the entrance hall, just before three o'clock, and thus addressed:—"Oh, Mr. Robinson, I am so glad to see you! I have tried in vain to purchase a ticket. Have you a seat you could let me have?"—"Madam," said the great pianist, "there is but one seat at my disposal, and that you are welcome to, if you think it to take it!"—"Oh, yes; and a thousand thanks! Where is it?" was the ready reply. "At the piano," smilingly replied Robinson.

The post office in India is regarded as so miraculous an agency by the more ignorant natives that in some out-of-the-way places the very letter boxes are worshipped. In one case a man posted his letter in a box and shouted out its destination to the passing jingling cart, which at once set off in that direction. Another native humbly took off his shoes as he approached the box, went through various devotions before and after posting his letter, and finally put some coppers before the box as a propitiatory offering, in the same attitude of humility.

Mrs. L. F. Baldy of California, member of the Woman's Silk Culture Association of the United States, has secured about one hundred acres of land near Odenton, Maryland, which will be devoted to silk culture. The land will be divided between ten silk colonists, and each will own ten acres of land. Mrs. Baldy is to teach the colonists, as she has had considerable experience in the same line in California. Each colonist pays \$1000 for the use of the land, and agrees to make up appearances of cocooning and instruction in silk culture. The object of the Association is to furnish to ladies and children respectable and lucrative employment.

The following improvement upon Lord Byron was offered to Madame Patti at the most recent of her farewell performances in New York:—

"Please walk; and if a woman  
Can't do that, then well,  
Nicole's quatin I'll smother,  
And gall the fawn the chestnut ball!"

"Please well, hoy with high collar;  
Where's my voice still roar,  
I'm not a woman, I'm a man;  
You paid to hear my 'Home, Sweet Home.'"

"Please well; and this fond honest  
Wishes here the truth to tell;  
That every time there's money in it  
She'll come again and have it well!"

A conspicuous object in the House of Commons the other day was an army captain, formerly belonging to the 36th Regiment, who, in order to get a seat at the bar, took unbuttoned his coat to expose the West. Officers do not himself in a most extraordinary manner. He wore a black undress military uniform, a white campaigning shako, two white patches hanging at his sides, and he carried in his hands an enormous broom, with a handle about four feet long. Dressed in this strange garb, and leaning on his broom, he stood silently in front of one of the gates of the House, and remained there throughout the day. He did not appear to be mad, but he seemed to suffer from great mental distress. His age was about fifty-five, and even in his fantastic uniform he had a respectable and commanding presence.

COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE.

MONDAY, 4th July. EXPORT CARGOES.

Per German steamship *Iphigenie*, sailed on the 27th June.—For Havre—22 boxes, rolling-mats, 61 packages tea, 22 cases human hair, 15 packages, 2 cases bristles, 3 cases China ink, 15 cases sand, 10 boxes, 12 boxes, 10 boxes, Hamburg—92 packages merchandise. For Havre option Hamburg and London—737 packages merchandise. For Amsterdam—218 boxes tobacco leaf. For Hamburg—236 packages snuff, 153 packages sandmire, 112 boxes feathers, 21 packages palm-leaf fans, 15 packages tea, 13 packages rations and bantucoware, 10 rolls mats 10 boxes cases, 10 boxes, 6 cases bristles. For Hamburg option London—134 boxes merchandise. For London—30 cases essential oil.

Per steamship *Dorcas*, sailed on the 30th June.—For Havre—840 lbs. congee, 165 lbs. scented pepper, 5,500 lbs. scented orange peels, 165 lbs. waste silk, 7 packages sandries, 71 packages pearl shell, 3 packages fans, and 11,000 packages tea. For South America—500 packages.

Per steamship *Arizona*, sailed on the 30th June.—For Havre—44,356 lbs. congee, 165,186 lbs. deodorized pepper, 4,828 lbs. scented orange peels, 4,800 lbs. soaps, 3,000 lbs. soaps, 25 boxes fine silk, 21 cases silk goods, 129 boxes waste silk, 50 cases vermillion, and 23 packages sandries. For France—342 boxes fine silk, 6 cases silk, 10 boxes sandries, 9 boxes waste silk, and 1 package sandries. From Manila for London—1 case cigars. From London for France—553 packages. From London for King George's Sound—282 packages tea.

Per steamship *Glenorchy*, sailed on the 1st July—50,536 lbs. congee, 9,375 lbs. scented orange peels, 63 packages cases, 6 cases bristles, 4 boxes feathers, 8 cases curios, and 7 packages sandries.

OPium.

Quotations are:—  
New Malwa ..... \$325 per picoul, aile, of 2 to 2 cases.  
Old Malwa ..... 3500 to 500 per picoul, aile, of 1 to 2 cases.  
Patna (New) ..... 3503 per case.

Banaras (New) ..... 4771.

EXCHANGE.

On LONDON.—  
Telegraphic Transfer ..... 10/31.  
Bank Bills, on demand ..... 10/11.  
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight ..... 10/11.  
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight ..... 10/11.  
Credit, at 4 months' sight ..... 10/11.  
Documentary Bills, at 4 months' sight ..... 10/11.

On PARIS.—  
Bank Bills, on demand ..... 3/24.  
Credit, at 4 months' sight ..... 4/2.  
New York.—  
Bank Bills, on demand ..... 76.  
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight ..... 774.

On BOMBAY.—  
Telegraphic Transfer ..... 2/23.

On CALCUTTA.—  
Telegraphic Transfer ..... 2/23.

Bank Bills, on demand ..... 2/23.

On SHANGHAI.—  
Bank, at sight ..... 724.

Private, 30 days' sight ..... 73.

SHARES.

Quotations are:—  
Hongkong and Shanghai Bank Shares—41 per cent. premium, buyers.

Union Securities Society of Canton, Limited—583 per share.

China Traders' Insurance Company's Shares—572 per share.

North China Insurance—The 285 per share.

Yangtze's Insurance Association—The 114 per share.

Chinese Insurance Company, Limited—\$325 per share.

The Daily Press Office.

On Tai Insurance Company, Limited—The 148 per share.

Caston Insurance, Limited—\$72 per share.

Hongkong Fire Insurance Company's Shares—\$824 per share, sellers.

China Maritime Insurance Company, Limited—\$32 per share.

Strait Maritime Insurance Company, Limited—\$16,000, sellers.

Strait Fire Insurance Company, Limited—\$16,000, sellers.

Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company's Shares—77 per cent. premium, sellers.

Hongkong, Canton, and Macao Steamship Co.'s Shares—10 per cent. discount.

China Steam Navigation Co.'s Shares—10 per cent. discount.

China and Manila Steamship Company, Limited—30 per cent. discount, nominal.

Douglas Steamship Company, Limited—\$50 per share.

Hongkong Gas Company's Shares—\$125 per share.

Hongkong Hotel Company's Shares—\$200 per share.

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## EXTRACTS.

THE PARIS BALLET.  
TRAINING DANCERS FOR THE STAGE.

There are nearly 1,000 persons employed at the Grand Opéra, including artists and employees of all kinds, and of these no fewer than 115 belong to the ballet. This is why that celebrated place is called the Académie of Dancing as well as the Académie of Music. All these male and female persons are a hard-worked lot of human beings. They have to commence early in the forenoon with stage rehearsals, either in their own "foyer" or stage. There they remain until 4 o'clock, with an intermission of twenty minutes at noon for lunch.

The accessories of a dancing class make the room look not unlike a torture chamber. There are boxes, rings, straps, bars, a whole arsenal of appliances intended to render the limbs supple. Every morning the dancing begins by impressing heel fast in a sort of box, which forces her to keep one heel touching the other and the knee turned directly outwards. In this way she subdues her self to keeping her feet at or on a straight line, with the toes turned out at right angles to her body, and this is what is called a tourne.

After half an hour in this box another variety of torture, called a cancan, comes. This consists in placing each foot alternately on a bar fixed in the wall at the height of the breast, and to which the dancer holds on with the hand on the opposite side of the body, changing from the right hand and left foot to the left hand and right foot at the word of command. These things are done every day, not only by pupils and beginners, but by every dancer, and they must be constantly kept up, for it is only in this way that a ballet dancer can preserve her suppleness and lightness.

Every week of rest has to be made up by two months of hard and unceasing work. It is told of Taglioni that one day after a lesson of two hours from her father she was so exhausted that she fell to the floor, and was undressed, sponge down and redressed without her being conscious of anything. Her wonderful agility of the evening was only obtained at the price of such torture as this during the daytime.

The example of Taglioni is followed by all other dancers, and some who have greater physical difficulties to overcome are obliged to torture themselves to an even greater degree. Nathalia Pitt Jones used to stretch herself out on the floor face downwards, with her legs spread out horizontally; then she would make her mind stand on that part of that body where the back-ends and the legs begin, and in time she got so used to carrying this load that she added to the weight of her mother and sister.

When the dances have been completed, their exercises of "tourne" and "se causer" they practice their "pas" or steps. The names of the principal "pas" used in chirography are: "jets," "balances," "pirouettes," "gargouillades," "entreboîtes," "fontaines," "roues de jambes," "assemblées," "portées," "parcours" and "petits temps," and these must all be practiced daily in the same way as a singer practices the voice, or a pianist the fingers. The professor indicates the steps in a few words spoken so rapidly that it requires a long experience to understand what he is saying. The pupils simulate the steps with their fingers, just in the same way as the thrusts and parries are simulated by the pupils of a fencing-master; then they execute them singly one after the other, or all together, while the professor scrups out a tune of some sort on a violin.

In a few minutes every girl is bathed in perspiration, which rolls in big drops down their cheeks, making muddy streaks in the dust that covers theiribus faces; their eyes grow bloodshot; some pant and gasp for breath, others seem ready to drop from exhaustion; the perspiration streaks through their slight clothing, molding this bodies like a wet bathing dress. The only part of the dancer that gains in flesh and muscles are her legs, the upper portion of the body—the chest, arms, neck and bosom—being reduced to mere skin and bone.

After the exercise in the steps comes the rehearsal of the ballet in preparation. This usually takes place on the stage, which presents a curious sight after the curtain is raised. In front is the yawning abyss of the auditorium plunged in darkness. The stage is dimly lighted and is crowded with girls dressed in flannel or cotton corsets, which leave their arms and shoulders bare, drawers of the same material, which do not come down to the knees, at which the long stockings that at rehearsal take the place of tights are gathered. On their feet are can-can dancing shoes. All around the stage hung on every available projection of the scenery, are velvet cloaks trimmed with costiture, satin and silk wraps, hats and bonnets that have cost more than \$20, mingled with cheap woollen shawls, threadbare waterproofs, gaudy hats picked up at the "décrochete-mécanique" stalls in the Temple, and those head-coverings dexterous fingers improvise out of a straw frame, a few bits of ribbon and artificial flowers.

All this is seen by the confused light which comes from a gas reflecting lamp placed in front of the prompter's hole and the little daylight that finds its way through the open door of the foyer at the back of the stage. In the orchestra pit are two violinists, and on the stage besides the girls, are two or three men, one of them armed with a heavy stick. Every now and then, when the chattering of the girls becomes so loud as to drown the feeble sound of the violin, he pounds on the stage vigorously with this stick and shouts.

"Come, now, young ladies, a little silence! We'll go on. The second tableau!"

Then he begins a sort of pantomimic performance, accompanied by a rapid chirographic explanation, which runs somewhat as follows:

"Attention! The prison scene and the 'pas des captives'; you are all in chains; Merante enters; you allow him to come down, and then you say in pantomime, 'You—no—pardon!' Turn your eyes upwards, eyes upward, hands crossed, the feet forward; now uncross the arms quickly, one foot back, look tenderly at Merante and wait."

Thus he goes on, scene by scene, through the whole ballet, the whole force following him and imitating his movements as best they can. They are all there, from the young and poor ones, when the slant of the foyer, the girl who has not found a "protector," and who content themselves with a few flowers or false jewelry for all adournment, up to the older and richer girls, "who have arrived," and who have found some one to put diamonds in their ears and real gold bracelets on their arms.

In the evening, when there is a performance the dancers must arrive at the opera at 8 o'clock. As she has only left it at 4.30 o'clock, she has had but scant time to attend to her domestic affairs, to dress and to eat her dinner. This meal has been a very superficial repast, for the hygiene of a dancer requires her to eat very little before dancing, as a heavily loaded stomach and the progress of digestion destroys the suppleness and elasticity of the muscles. When she has passed through the monumental gates at the rear of the building, on the Boulevard Haussmann side, she turns to the left, crosses the courtyard, and enters through the door, which is guarded by the concierge, from whom she receives any letters or bouquets which may have been left for her.

Wide flights of stairs and passages all brilliantly lighted soon bring her to her dressing-room. These rooms are large, well

ventilated and lighted, and are quite comfortable. In each there is a large "Pavlo" mirror, an ingeniously arranged toilet table, a profusion of glass, a tall window draped with heavy curtains, in open fireplaces well supplied with wood, and plenty of hot and cold water.

Some of the rooms are used by as many as twenty girls, but in that case each has a dressing table to herself and ample space to proceed with her toilet without being in the way of the others. She begins her preparation for the stage by covering her face, neck, and arms with a thick coat of white liquid, which as it dries forms a sort of varnish; then she greases this first coat with a little cold cream sprinkled with silver powder, touches up her cheeks with vermilion, skillfully shading them down to the corners of the mouth; the lips are next coloured with carmine, the eyes are next painted by a few touches of a brush dipped in oil, or a purple ring is painted under them to give them brightness; the brows are blushed with India ink, the lashes are rubbed with a pencil, crowfeet are hidden by a network of blue veins drawn with a camel-hair brush, and fine minute patches of court plastic are stuck on her and there. This ensemble of channelling, gossamer, powdering and painting is called the "make-up," and it takes a dameuse full hour to do it properly.

The next thing to be done is to get into the tight—something which can only be accomplished with the aid of one of the dressers, who sees to it that it is well stretched as not to show a single wrinkle. Then the dameuse puts on a colored garment which she calls her "tutu," and which resembles a pair of baggy trousers such as zoots wear, only it does not reach down as far as the knees; and it is on this that the dresser fastens the rest of the costume, which is sometimes, indeed, very scant. List of all the dancing shoes are put on, and now she is ready to descend to the stage.—S. F. Chiroscles Correspondence.

## QUEER STORY.

## AN AMERICAN BEAUTY.

The rise of Mrs. Blackie Tanner in English society can only be likened for rapidity and brilliancy to the flight of a rocket. Whether the simile can be carried any further, the following narrative will sufficiently show.

Mrs. Blackie Tanner's history commenced on board a homeward-bound Cunarder. She was not actually born on board, but it is an understanding thing that American ladies, when transatlantically, have no attendants. They are born again, as it were, in crossing the Atlantic. Therefore, when we have ascertained that Mrs. Blackie

Tanner was her half-brother, the old sailor gave her the name of her informant and Mr. Jones departed.

Lady Gertrude's little party came off—but no Royal personage was present. The fact could not but excite remark; and when others of a similar character were soon after seen, the truth was quickly apparent that Lady Gertrude Haughton was in disgrace. Her ladyship had subsided and the Royal party had left (but without Mrs. Blackie Tanner), but, before she accomplished her purpose, the fashionable beauty collapsed in tears upon the floor.

The effect was electrical. Oblivious of the Royal presence, the two Pawns bounded into the air with a war-whoop which rang through the building.

"Rosalie, our sister!" cried Dog's Nose, as he landed on her feet.

"Rosalie—my wife!" cried the poor relation, adding in the same breath, "Potoskinishness!" the Pawn equivalent for "thunder and turf!"

Simultaneously, the tattered squaw cast up her hands to heaven and uttered a dismal cry. Then she rushed wildly upon Mrs. Blackie Tanner, but, before she accomplished her purpose, the fashionable beauty collapsed in tears upon the floor.

"What is the meaning of it all?" asked Lady Gertrude of Mr. Christie Jones, when the confession had subsided and the Royal party had left (but without Mrs. Blackie Tanner). "Are these people really her relations?"

"Dog's Nose is her half-brother. The old squaw is her mother. Her father was an American trapper who joined the Indians and started his own wigwam. The broken-down chief is undoubtedly her husband. She bolted from him four years ago with an unprincipled pale face, who travelled for a Chinese house in the firewater trade. I got the last fact from Mr. Southern Polo, and your ladyship may guess the rest!"—Truth.

Lady Gertrude's little party came off—but no Royal personage was present.

Let us suppose that she rose from the sea in New York harbour just before the Cunarder sailed—the American Venus that she certainly was.

Mrs. Tanner, who, wherever she came from, had been brought up with her eyes open, crossed in the autumn, when a good many English people worth knowing were booking their passages homeward. She was thus able to turn her six days in the saloon of the Umbria to very good account. Before she landed at Liverpool she had secured invitations to a couple of unexpected country houses, one of which was Lord Oldenstof's hospitable mansion in Suffolk. Lord Oldenstof was a widower, and had no notion of changing his condition, but he fell, nevertheless, a good deal under the sway of the fair American, and made himself useful to her in more ways than one. Among other things, he wrote a diplomatic little note, commanding her to the good graces of his cousin, Lady Gertrude Haughton, who had reigned for a long period as one of the queens of London society, and who was privileged to move in that sacred inner circle of fashion which has its centre in Marlborough House. By sedulously improving her opportunities in this and other ways, Mrs. Blackie Tanner made enough friends before the next London season opened, to ensure her a prosperous début in the metropolis, and once launched there, her beauty, talents, and knowledge of the world soon did the rest. In her upward career, however, she owed nothing to the favour of Lady Gertrude Haughton, the reason for which shall now be explained.

By dint of constant circumspection in her conduct and company, Lady Gertrude Haughton had succeeded in achieving a reputation for rigid exclusiveness which was almost unique; in fact, by many competent judges to be on Lady Gertrude's visiting-list was regarded as even more satisfactory than to have kissed the hand of the Heir Apparent. It need hardly be said, therefore, that Lady Gertrude was not the person to accept an aspirant for social eminence on a mere certificate from a vagrant nobleman that he had picked up this lady on the deck of an Atlantic steamer, and found her as charming as she was beautiful. Her ladyship made an agreeable reply to Lord Oldenstof's letter; but she determined that she would personally investigate the fair American before committing herself.

It was not long before an opportunity of doing presented itself, in the shape of an invitation to a certain Mrs. Gathurum, where the new beauty was to be on view. By this time, Lady Gertrude's interest in Mrs. Blackie Tanner was stimulated by the reports which had reached her of that lady's marvellous fascinations. She accordingly swallowed certain antiphastics towards Mrs. Gathurum, and went to inspect the American wonder. On entering the room, Mrs. Gathurum, and went to inspect the American wonder. On entering the room, Mrs. Gathurum, where the new beauty was to be on view. By this time, Lady Gertrude's interest in Mrs. Blackie Tanner was stimulated by the reports which had reached her of that lady's marvellous fascinations. She accordingly swallowed certain antiphastics towards Mrs. Gathurum, and went to inspect the American wonder. On entering the room, Mrs. Gathurum, where the new beauty was to be on view. 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